



# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

November 2005



**Annual Network Meeting:** The annual meeting for the Northern Great Plains I&M Network will be February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Rapid City Radisson. The I&M session will run from 8:00-11:00am and will be followed by Fire Effects Monitoring and Exotic Plant Management Team sessions. A good time should be had by all so make your reservations early. (As an fyi, the NEKOTA administrative folks will meet on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the EPMT Steering Committee will meet that same afternoon, and the FirePro folks will meet Thursday morning at a different location.) There will not be a Technical Committee breakout session as there has been in past years.

**Certified Species Lists:** An important objective of the biological inventory phase was to develop and certify a scientifically-defensible list of vertebrates and vascular plants present in each park. That objective is nearing completion, especially for the vertebrates. The table on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter document the steps that have been completed and the current status for each taxonomic group for each park. Those species lists/park combinations highlighted in green can be considered complete and final whereas those in yellow and purple are complete, but still need one last final review (of course these lists will never truly be “final” since they will be updated as new information becomes available). Parks are strongly encouraged to use these lists for NEPA and planning documents, scientific studies, management actions, and other park needs. To retrieve the certified lists of species for the parks go to NPSpecies at: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/apps/npspp/index.htm>. Unfortunately, you still need a login ID to access the lists; if no one at your park has one you can request one from Marcia Wilson of the I&M Program. Another way to get the lists is to simply contact Marcia.

**Miscellaneous:** The I&M Program has been told that we should get a \$150k increase in FY06 funding, but we still have not seen anything in writing so we are proceeding cautiously. By the end of the calendar year a tentative decision should be made on a long-term office solution for the I&M Program (stay tuned – it may be dependent on FY05 funding). Mike Bynum’s (temporary Biological Technician for the I&M Program) appointment has expired so we had to let him go. Mike did an excellent job and will be missed. Last, the national I&M web page has been updated. Please bookmark the page: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/monitor/index.cfm>.

**Pesky Predators:** Protecting charismatic predators is often a high priority for conservation organizations (and in some parks), sometimes under the rationale that by protecting wide-ranging predators you increase the likelihood of conserving more biodiversity. But does it work? According to a study published in *Nature* the answer is “yes.” The researchers looked at sites with and without top-level predators and they found that the sites with predators had more biodiversity (as measured by birds, butterflies, and trees). They found that the “efficiency” (e.g., on a per-acre basis) of conserving biological diversity was greater on sites with predators than those without.

Status of Species Lists Certification for Northern Great Plains I&M Network

		AGFO	BADL	DETO	FOLA	FOUS	JECA	KNRI	MNRR	MORU	NIOB	SCBL	THRO	WICA
BIRDS	Sent to Reviewer	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	X	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005	7/6/2005
	Certified by Reviewer	9/23/2005	9/26/2005	8/12/2005 8/15/2005	8/12/2005	8/12/2005	8/12/2005	11/3/2005	11/11/2005	8/12/2005	11/3/2005	11/4&11/2005	11/8/2005	9/14/2005
	Sent to Park Certified by Park	11/21/2005	11/21/2005	9/29/2005	10/4/2005	8/15/2005	8/15/2005	11/9/2005	11/21/2005	8/15/2005	11/7/2005	11/16/2005	11/17/2005	9/20/2005
	Certified List Online	11/30/2005				8/30/2005	9/6/2005			x	11/23/2005	11/30/2005		11/10/2005
		"YES" 9/26/2005	"YES" 9/26/2005	"YES" 9/27/2005	"YES" 9/16/2005	"YES" 9/21/2005	"YES" 9/12/2005				"YES" 9/16/2005	12/1/2005	"YES" 12/1/2005	
FISH	Sent to Reviewer	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Certified by Reviewer	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Sent to Park Certified by Park	12/21/2004	12/21/2004	12/21/2004	12/21/2004	0	0	12/21/2004	1/25/2004	12/21/2004	1/24/2005	12/21/2004	12/21/2004	12/21/2004
	Certified List Online	1/19/2005	6/2/2005	6/20/2005	1/9/2005	0	0	1/6/2005	9/23/2005	X	2/16/2005	1/26/2005	11/23/2005	2/14/2005
		YES 5/31/2005	YES 7/21/2005	YES 7/26/2005	YES 7/21/2005	0	0	YES 7/21/2005	"YES" 9/23/2005	YES 4/20/2005	YES 8/02/2005	YES 7/27/2005		YES 4/20/2005
HERPS	Sent to Reviewer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
	Certified by Reviewer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	8/15/2005	8/15/2005
	Sent to Park Certified by Park	1/25/2005	3/1/2005	1/27/2005	3/1/2005	3/11/2005	3/1/2005	3/22/2005		3/21/2005		3/23/2005	8/15/2005	8/15/2005
	Certified List Online	1/26/2005	3/14/2005	x	3/11/2005	8/15/2005	3/8/2005	8/15/2005		X		3/30/2005	8/22/05	9/16/05
		"YES" 8/11/2005	YES 8/09/2005	YES 8/11/2005	"YES" 9/20/2005	"YES" 8/16/2005	"YES" 8/11/2005	"YES" 9/06/2005			YES 8/04/2005		"YES" 8/11/2005	"YES" 9/20/2005

		AGFO	BADL	DETO	FOLA	FOUS	JECA	KNRI	MNRR	MORU	NIOB	SCBL	THRO	WICA	
<b>MAMMALS</b>	Sent to Reviewer Certified by	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Reviewer	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	6/8/2005	
	Sent to Park Certified by	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	7/7/2005	
	Park	9/28/2005	8/18/2005	9/27/2005	9/30/05(late)	8/11/2005	7/15/2005	7/7/2005	9/23/2005	mhw	8/13/2005	8/12/2005	8/19/2005	9/21/2005	
	Certified List Online	"YES" 9/28/2005	"YES" 8/18/2005	"YES" 9/28/2005	"YES" 9/27/2005	"YES" 8/16/2005	"YES" 9/23/2005	"YES" 8/19/2005	"YES" 9/23/2005	"YES" 9/20/2005	"YES" 9/07/2005	"YES" 9/07/2005	"YES" 9/09/2005	"YES" 9/23/2005	
<b>PLANTS</b>	Sent to Reviewer Certified by	X	X	X	x		X	6/29/2005	X	X	X	X	6/30/2005	X	
	Reviewer	X	X	X	x		X	10/3/2005	4/12/2005	X	X	X		X	
	Sent to Park Certified by	3/24/2005	12/21/2004	1/26/2005	11/23/2005		1/26/2005	11/21/2005	8/16/2005	4/8/2005	3/24/2005	3/24/2005		3/24/2005	
	Park	10/11/2005					3/21/2005		12/1/2005*	x	"8/24/2005"	4/7/2005			
	Certified List Online														
<b>"YES" = need to go back and review certification list more carefully.</b>		<b>Red = Lists I&amp;M Program is waiting for additional info on.</b>				<b>Purple = Lists that need to be recertified because park reviewed the list after the Oct 1 deadline date.</b>				<b>Green = Final</b>		X = task completed (date unknown)		0 = taxa not applicable to park	